IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A method for pre-selecting disks coupled to a storage system,

2 the method comprising the steps of:

3   obtaining, by a processor, a set of system characteristics;

4   obtaining, by said processor, a plurality of disk characteristics;

5   comparing, by said processor, the system characteristics with the disk characteris-

6 tics;

7   selecting, by said processor, disks whose disk characteristics match the system

8 characteristics and displaying the selected disks in a GUI.

1 2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of displaying the se-

2 lected disks to a user.

1 3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the system characteristics comprise char-

2 acteristics of a volume of the storage system.

1 4. (Original) The method of Claim 3 wherein the step of obtaining system characteristics

2 further comprises the steps of:

3   retrieving the volume characteristics from a volume table, the volume table cre-

4 ated and maintained by a file system layer of an operating system executing on the stor-

5 age system.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the system characteristics are obtained

from a registry of the storage system.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the registry further comprises:

an application program interface, the application program interface permitting programs

to interface with the registry.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the pre-selection occurs when a menu is

displayed to a user.

8. (Currently Amended) A graphical user interface (GUI) for managing a file server, the

GUI comprising:

    a disk selector menu for identifying disks that may serve as candidates for a set of

operations, said disk selector menu prepared by a processor and said disks identified by

said processor, the set of operations including addition of disks to a volume and creation

of a volume, the disk selector menu only displaying disks which are valid for the opera-

tion.

9. (Original) The graphical user interface of Claim 8 wherein the disk selector menu is a

component of a web page and displayed in a web browser.

1 10. (Original) The graphical user interface of Claim 8 wherein the disk selector menu
2 only displays disks which are valid for a specific volume of the network storage.

1 11. (Original) A computer-readable medium operating on a storage system, the com-
2 puter-readable medium including program instructions for performing the steps of:
3 obtaining system characteristics;
4 obtaining a plurality of disk characteristics;
5 comparing the disk characteristics to the system characteristics;
6 selecting disks whose disk characteristics match the system characteristics; and
7 displaying a list of the selected disks that may be added to the disks active in the storage
8 system.

1 12. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 11 wherein the computer-
2 readable medium is a Java servlet.

1 13. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 11 wherein the system charac-
2 teristics further comprise:
3 a set of volume characteristics.

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1 14. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 11 further programmed to per-

2 form the step of displaying the selected disks to the user, said list including only selected

3 disks from a spare pool of disks and no others.

1 15. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 11 further programmed to per-

2 form the step of displaying the selected disks to the user in a disk selector menu.

1 16. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 11 wherein the disk selector

2 menu is a component of a web page and displayed in a web browser.

1 17. (Currently Amended) Electromagnetic signals propagating over a computer network,

2 the electromagnetic signals carrying information for practicing the method of claim 1

3 [5].

1 18. (Currently Amended) A method of pre-selecting disks to be displayed in a menu, the

2 pre-selecting occurring before the menu is displayed, the method comprising the steps of:

3 obtaining, by a processor, a set of system characteristics;

4 obtaining, by said processor, a set of spare disk characteristics;

5 comparing, by said processor, the system characteristics to the spare disk charac-

6 teristics; and,

7   pre-selecting, by said processor, a plurality of spare disks whose characteristics

8   match the system characteristics and displaying in the menu at least one pre-selected disk.

1   19. (Currently Amended) A method of pre-selecting disks to be added to a volume of a

2   storage system, the method comprising the steps of:

3   obtaining, by a processor, a set of volume characteristics by calling an application

4   program interface of a registry;

5   obtaining, by said processor, a set of spare disk characteristics by calling the ap-

6   plication program interface of the registry; and

7   pre-selecting, by said processor, a set of disks based upon the spare disk charac-

8   teristics matching the set of volume characteristics.